



South Carolina



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural South Carolina families.**

MADE IN RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA

Champion Wood Pellets was awarded a USDA renewable energy guaranteed loan to start a wood pellet manufacturing facility in Ridgeland, South Carolina. Wood waste from lumber operations is used as the raw material. The wood pellets are used in home heating systems as fuel for electric generators, primarily in the northern US and in Europe.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **238 rural businesses in South Carolina thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms.

Rural manufacturing supports 49,532 jobs in South Carolina. USDA has invested **\$35.9 million** to help rural manufacturers in **South Carolina** increase production and capacity.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2012, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$948 million** to **South Carolina's** economy.

The President's Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **23,947 South Carolina families** purchase or repair homes.



CONNECTIVITY

USDA has invested **\$206.3 million** to support new and improved broadband service for rural **South Carolina families.** Broadband service helps to expand access to state-of-the-art health care, educational, and cultural resources and helps rural businesses compete in the global economy.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$429.1 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural South Carolina families** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.